

RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress
36th District of California



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Indio, Indio Boulevard Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Indio at 100 Civic Center Drive, Indio, CA 92201

The funding would be used for an active transportation improvements along Indio Boulevard, from Monroe Street to Requa Avenue. This will consist of replacing 48,000 square feet of sidewalk in the project area and will include Site Preparation, and Street Improvements Site Preparation will consist of construction mobilization, traffic control, stormwater protection, dust control, clearing and grubbing, earthwork. Street Improvements will include relocate/replace water meters, construct curb and gutter, construct driveway, construct sidewalk, construct curb ramp, asphalt repair, signing and striping.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will bring active transportation and placemaking streetscape elements to an area that lacks unique character and is devoid of shade, making it difficult to use the outdoor space in the summer temperatures average 102 degrees.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in The Indio Boulevard Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Project aligns with the following subsections of Section 5305 of chapter 69 of title 42, United States Code:

§5305. Activities eligible for assistance

(a) Enumeration of eligible activities

Activities assisted under this chapter may include only—

(2) the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements;

(5) special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers which restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons;



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- (c) Activities benefiting persons of low and moderate income
(1) In any case in which an assisted activity described in paragraph (14) or (17) of subsection (a) is identified as principally benefiting persons of low and moderate income, such activity shall—
(A) be carried out in a neighborhood consisting predominately of persons of low and moderate income and provide services for such persons;

In alignment with 5305 (a) (2), the project will construct and install active transportation and placemaking improvements along a 1.5 mile stretch of Indio Boulevard between Monroe Street and Requa Avenue. These improvements include: replacing or constructing 48,000 SF of sidewalk and removing trip hazards; installing 1.5 miles of Class II bike lanes; and installing artistic shade structures, public art, and trees.

In alignment with 5305 (a) (5), the project will remove barriers that restrict the mobility and accessibility of elderly and handicapped persons. Currently, the area sidewalks are inconsistent in their width, contain trip hazards and gaps do not allow for a continuous pathway through the corridor. To create a more pedestrian friendly experience for visitors to Indio's historic downtown area, and for the more than 6,490 disadvantaged residents in the area, sidewalk segments will be constructed where they are currently missing and/or rehabilitate sections that are in disrepair, making a continuous, ADA compliant pedestrian pathway along the entire 1.5-mile length of Indio Boulevard on the south side of the roadway.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress